

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
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ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD  
+ + + + +  
MEETING

IN THE MATTER OF:

The Andrew Keegan Theatre, Co	
t/a The Andrew Keegan	
Theatre Company	Fact Finding
1742 Church Street, NW	Hearing
Retailer DX	(Status)
License No. 98780	
Notice of Meeting	

May 13, 2015

The Alcoholic Beverage Control Board  
met in Alcoholic Beverage Control Hearing Room,  
Reeves Building, 2000 14th Street N.W.,  
Washington, D.C., Chairperson Ruthanne Miller  
presiding.

PRESENT:

RUTHANNE MILLER, Chairperson  
NICK ALBERTI, Member  
DONALD BROOKS, Member

HERMAN JONES, Member

MICHAEL SILVERSTEIN, Member

HECTOR RODRIGUEZ, Member

JAMES SHORT, Member

1 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

2 (2:54 p.m.)

3 CHAIR MILLER: Okay, our next case is  
4 scheduled for 3 o'clock and it's 2:55, but I've  
5 got a feeling that the party's here. This is for  
6 the Andrew Keegan Theatre Company. 1742 Church  
7 Street, Northwest. License Number 98780.

8 If you want to introduce yourself? I  
9 assume you're the only one coming for this case,  
10 is that --

11 MR. KLEIN: Yes. Unfortunately --

12 CHAIR MILLER: Do you want to wait  
13 till 3:00?

14 MR. KLEIN: No. I'll be the only one.  
15 We're renovating the theatre --

16 CHAIR MILLER: Okay. Could you get  
17 started with your name.

18 MR. KLEIN: Oh. My name is Jeffrey  
19 Klein.

20 CHAIR MILLER: Okay.

21 MR. KLEIN: And I'm with Andrew Keegan  
22 Theatre Company.

1 CHAIR MILLER: Okay, good. All right,  
2 now what were you saying? I didn't mean to  
3 interrupt you, but for the record we need to know  
4 who's speaking. Yes.

5 MR. KLEIN: Okay.

6 CHAIR MILLER: Okay. What were you  
7 saying?

8 MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: Mr. Klein, could  
9 you begin by very, very briefly giving a little  
10 history of the theatre and letting folks how long  
11 you've been around and in the neighborhood?

12 MR. KLEIN: Oh, sure. We've been  
13 around, this will be our 18th season. And we  
14 started out, we're a professional non-profit  
15 theatre company in Washington DC.

16 We started out doing performances in  
17 Virginia and DC at the Church Street Theatre.  
18 About five years ago we became a permanent  
19 resident theatre company. Which meant we rented  
20 the facility.

21 And then two years ago, 2013, we  
22 purchased the building. And we went through a --

1 we're currently through a capital campaign. And  
2 we're doing a re-open June 22nd of this year.

3 So we spent about \$2 million in  
4 renovations to update, upgraded. We went through  
5 a long process of re-zoning, the zoning variance.

6 And right now we just want to get the  
7 liquor license so that we can have -- serve beer  
8 and wine at our concessions/snack bar.

9 We're not a big company. We have a  
10 full-time staff of four people. And we have  
11 about 200 productions a year.

12 The capacity of the theatre is  
13 anywhere from 109 to 122. When we renovated the  
14 theatre we became ADA accessible, so we actually  
15 have less seats than before.

16 According to the zoning variance we  
17 can have up to 125. But with the new seating, we  
18 have new permanent seating that we can take out  
19 seats for ADA wheelchairs. It can go down to  
20 109.

21 Also with our variance we have  
22 restricted hours. So I believe we can operate to

1       like 11:30 at night. Do I keep going?

2               CHAIR MILLER: Are you operating now?

3               MR. KLEIN: No.

4               CHAIR MILLER: No. When will you be  
5       operating?

6               MR. KLEIN: Our first show is  
7       scheduled for -- opening is Saturday June 27th,  
8       2015.

9               CHAIR MILLER: Okay. And have --

10              MR. KLEIN: We will have ten  
11       productions that day, till August of 2016.

12              Typically between shows we have about  
13       a two week break. Where they take down the sets,  
14       rebuild the sets and then rehearse.

15              CHAIR MILLER: Okay. And you want to  
16       sell beer and wine at your concessions stand, or  
17       whatever you call it, that's related to the  
18       performances?

19              MR. KLEIN: Yes. We do and our  
20       patrons, they like it too. So.

21              CHAIR MILLER: What did you say?

22              MR. KLEIN: Our patrons --

1 (Off record comment)

2 MR. KLEIN: We would sell during our  
3 performances. That would be the only time we  
4 would sell them.

5 CHAIR MILLER: During the  
6 performances?

7 MR. KLEIN: Right.

8 CHAIR MILLER: Okay.

9 MR. KLEIN: I can give you a listing  
10 of our current performances schedule for the next  
11 season. For this upcoming season if you'd like?

12 CHAIR MILLER: Okay. Do you have  
13 extra copies you brought for the Board?

14 MR. KLEIN: Yes.

15 CHAIR MILLER: John, can you get from  
16 --

17 PARTICIPANT: Yes, sure.

18 CHAIR MILLER: Our staff will get it  
19 from you. So my question is, prior to this  
20 years, you know, renovations, did you sell, was  
21 it beer and wine every other year?

22 MR. KLEIN: No. The only time we

1 really had beer and wine was for patrons and  
2 donors, cast parties, things like that.

3 CHAIR MILLER: Okay. Special events?  
4 Special --

5 MR. KLEIN: Right.

6 CHAIR MILLER: Okay. So this is the  
7 first time you're seeking a beer, a liquor  
8 license basically? To go with your property.

9 MR. KLEIN: Yes. When we had -- went  
10 through the DCRA and got our business license and  
11 zoning and all that sort of thing, we thought  
12 we'd apply for our liquor license as well.

13 CHAIR MILLER: Okay. Board members  
14 have questions? Okay.

15 MEMBER ALBERTI: No. I will just  
16 comment that this Client, you've answered all the  
17 questions I had. And I really do appreciate you  
18 coming in.

19 MR. KLEIN: Oh, sure.

20 MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: Yes.

21 MR. KLEIN: Just to let you know, it  
22 is kind of a residential street. It's a really

1 unique street. And I think it really adds to the  
2 character of the city.

3 And with the zoning, and even before  
4 that, we were really aware of security. Locks on  
5 the place, going to show we're there all the  
6 time.

7 MEMBER ALBERTI: So you're in the  
8 space where the Real Peace Street Theatre was?

9 MR. KLEIN: Church Street.

10 MEMBER ALBERTI: Church Street, I  
11 mean.

12 MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: Yes.

13 MR. KLEIN: Right.

14 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. Thank you.

15 MR. KLEIN: So we're very aware of the  
16 concerns of the neighbors and we have -- in fact,  
17 we're closing the street for the opening, and  
18 just went door to door to get, you know, talk to  
19 everyone about it. So it's going to be great.

20 CHAIR MILLER: Okay. Oh, yes, Mr.  
21 Silverstein.

22 MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: Just in closing,

1       this is my neighborhood.

2               CHAIR MILLER:   Okay.

3               MEMBER SILVERSTEIN:   It is truly a  
4       legitimate theatre.   There are neighbors there  
5       who will protect the neighborhood against all  
6       threats.   Real and imagined.

7               And I don't know anyone that has any  
8       concern or worries that you will be anything  
9       other than you have been.   Which is an excellent  
10      and beloved neighbor.

11              MR. KLEIN:   Thank you.

12              MEMBER SILVERSTEIN:   And I wish you  
13      the absolute best of luck --

14              MR. KLEIN:   Thanks.

15              MEMBER SILVERSTEIN:   -- with the new  
16      renovations and your curtain call.

17              MR. KLEIN:   Thanks.

18              CHAIR MILLER:   Anyone else?   So like  
19      the others, I appreciate your coming down.  
20      Because you're giving us a little bit more idea  
21      about what the theatre does and its situation  
22      right now makes it come alive for us.   And so we

1 will deal with your application very shortly and  
2 get back to you on that.

3 MR. KLEIN: Okay, thank you.

4 CHAIR MILLER: Okay, thank you. Okay,  
5 so that might be the last hearing of the  
6 afternoon actually.

7 Okay, yes. That completes our  
8 hearings for this afternoon. So the Board will  
9 recess and then return shortly for the agendas.

10 MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: For the agenda.

11 CHAIR MILLER: Yes. Thank you.

12 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
13 went off there record at 3:03 p.m.)  
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